

REMARKS

Claim 1 is currently pending. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,895,407 to Jayaraman, and under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over US Patent No. 6,676,701. In this response, Applicant has amended claim 1 and submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection. Applicant has also added new claims 59 through 72.

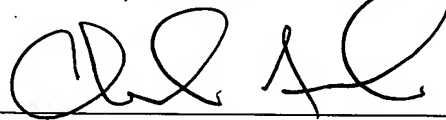
Without conceding whether the Jayaraman patent constitutes a valid §102(a) reference, Applicant has amended claims 1 to recite that the tubular body is “non-polymeric” and “non-silicone”. The Jayaraman patent describes a coating 30 formed of one of several polymeric or silicone materials. (Jayaraman, col. 5, ll. 35-49). Accordingly, the Jayaraman patent does not teach or suggest the use of a non-polymeric, non-silicone tubular element, as recited in the presently amended claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims now presented in this application define patentable subject matter over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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